

TOKYOPOP

# HETALIA

Axis Powers



A black silhouette of Japan is shown. The northern island of Hokkaido and the southern island of Kyushu are filled with a solid red color. The main island of Honshu is also outlined in red.

# HETALIA™

Axis Powers

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HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

# Japan-kun and America-kun 3

Sightseeing is so exciting!

Temple



Shinjuku  
nightlife





Will Japan be able to make friends with others?





# Japan's Path to Cultural Enlightenment Let's Table Turning!!



**Table Turning:**  
An American-style game, using a small, three-legged table. Participants hold hands and ask questions as the table tips and turns in response. The Japanese-style game, called "kokori-one" (possibly originated from this practice). When the game came into Japan, it was an explosive hit, leading to the opening of a specialized "table turning store" in year 18 of the Meiji era.

# Japan's Path to Cultural Enlightenment I'm Older Than I Look



Learning for the Olden Days  
Even as Japan was swept in a sea of cultural change, some still believed it would be better for the country to revert back to "the old ways." With all of its busy visitors, it's only sensible that Japan would be more at peace when surrounded by traditionally Japanese things. I guess that makes retro movements have always been popular.

## Common animals that were introduced during this time

### Rabbits

Everyone (including the author!) loves rabbits. During the cultural enlightenment period, they became popular pets. At that time, they were so expensive, that you could sooner afford a ritzy piece of property in Ginza. The rabbit boom got bigger and bigger, until the government added a tax of one yen per rabbit per month. After that, they were discarded into the wild en masse. People should take responsibility for their pets!



### Guinea Pigs

Guinea pigs were also popular during this time. The price of a guinea pig was 100 times greater than a police sergeant's paycheck. The first person to have a guinea pig as a pet was the Emperor of Japan. Apparently, one of the Italian nobles gave it to him as a gift. Who knew they would grow to be so common...



By the way, guinea pigs with curly hair were developed in Japan. Some guy crossbred a guinea pig with a mouse and ended up with a curly-haired guinea pig. Amazing what differences a little mice can make!



## Japan's Path to Cultural Enlightenment Final Weapon: Bunnies





## Things that Were Popular Back in the Day

Beer and coffee also became quite common in Japan during this time. Beef hot pot became popular as well. Although it may appear that Japan was compliant to everything, the idea of cutting your hair short was bitterly resisted by the citizens of Japan. At the time, it must have been strange to see long-haired Japanese people wearing Westernized clothes.

CHAPTER 1  
HETALIA 2





# Japan-kun and America-kun 4

America-san likes  
"buy one get one free"  
deals too.

ANALYTICAL  
RETAIL 2





## American Ghosts





## American Ghosts

23% of the American population have either seen ghosts or believe that they are real. This is no surprise since American ghosts seem to crave attention.

There are so many ghost-related TV shows these days that it's more laughable than scary. It's common to see things like ghosts showing up in photos, walking through surveillance videos or popping into people's houses. The funniest was the case of a ghost standing right in the middle of a big group photo. It didn't even have the typical ghost-like characteristics of transparency.

It seems as if Americans like to be the center of attention even after they're dead.

When I used to live in a dorm, my roommates would always sit around the TV and watch stuff like this. When I heard them all screaming, I had to take a peek. It turns out they were freaking out every time they saw a "haunted photo."



*On the other hand, the Chinese guys were cracking up laughing.*



But if they're watching a Japanese movie with some creepy girl or kid standing behind someone, everyone thinks it's hilarious. It defies logic.



Axis Powers



II



**Japan-kun and  
America-kun 5**

THE FIFTH  
**BETALIA 2**





[Not English]

In England, everyone's hair was wild and tangled. On the other hand, the French nobility took great care of their hair, even going so far as to officially endorse certain styles.



## Medieval England's Fashion Fiasco

AXIS POWERS  
HETALIA2

In the 11th century, long and luxurious French-style hair was very popular in England. This is because the King of England was a big fan of French culture.



# Medieval England's Fashion Fiasco

## Golden Caterpillar



F\*\*k Long Hair

In England, there was once an extremely anti-French bishop named Wolfstan. Constantly criticizing French-style hair, he encouraged his countrymen to "never forget the British spirit." His hatred towards long hair was so intense, that when his parishioners knelt down, the bishop would grab their hair and cut it himself. Bishop Wolfstan's motto was, "Long hair will send you to hell!"

# Medieval England's Fashion Fiasco Back to the Drawing Board



[Different]  
Mirrors made out of reflective glass weren't invented until the 14th century, so during this time, shiny metals were buffed to make them reflective. The mirrors of today weren't invented until 19th century. Surprising how recent they are!



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